

and more access to life-saving treatments. And in comparison to managed care, Medicare is also extremely cost-effective. It's an under-appreciated fact that Medicare is administered for just two cents on the dollar, while managed care is typically administered at a rate twelve times greater.

Still, it's absolutely amazing how much bureaucratic red tape you can generate for two cents on the dollar. This is 500 sheets of paper. If you write double-sided, it's 1000 pages. Now, if you imagine 110 of these stacks piled on top of each other, you begin to have an idea of how complicated Medicare is. 110,000 pages of regulations—that's over three times the length of the U.S. tax code.

Every month, physicians receive pages upon pages from their Medicare carriers describing ever-changing policies and regulations. Keeping track of everything is frankly impossible. Yet, if a physician doesn't follow one of the rules, no matter how unintentionally, he or she can be subjected to the draconian process of a Medicare audit. Currently, when carriers identify an alleged physician billing error, they can "extrapolate" the single identified error to the physician's other claims. This would be like the IRS identifying an error on your most recent tax return, and then assuming that you made that error on every tax return you ever filed.

The "Medicare Education and Regulatory Fairness Act of 2001" is a common-sense piece of legislation that addresses this injustice, as well as many others. This act will guarantee that physicians receive the same due process that we guarantee all our citizens. If this alone were the only virtue of this bill, it would still be worth passing. But there is a larger significance here that extends beyond physicians, and it can be summarized with a simple equation: Less time spent on paperwork means more time spent on patient care. Therefore, as much as physicians will benefit from this legislation, let us always keep in mind that the true beneficiaries are the patients.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO ALLOW FEDERAL CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES TO RETAIN FRE- QUENT FLYER MILES THEY RE- CEIVE WHILE TRAVELING ON OF- FICIAL GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2001

Mr. BURTON. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill that would assist federal departments and agencies in their efforts to recruit and retain employees. This bill would allow federal civilian employees to keep frequent flyer miles and other promotional benefits they receive while traveling on official government business. Unlike private-sector employees, federal workers are currently prohibited by law from keeping these benefits for personal use.

The existing law, enacted in 1994, intended to save the government money. However, the law has been difficult to implement because the airlines regard frequent flyer miles as belonging to the individual traveler and are generally unwilling to create separate official and

personal frequent flyer accounts for the same individual. Overall, the burdens and costs of administering this program have limited its benefits to the government.

The private sector commonly allows its employees to keep the frequent flyer miles they receive while on business travel, giving private companies, including government contractors, a competitive edge over federal agencies in attracting and retaining skilled employees. Changing this policy would help level the playing field.

However, in order for federal employees to keep these benefits, the bill would require that they be obtained under the same terms as provided to the general public and must be at no additional cost to the government. Frequent flyer miles that are accrued during employees' official travel will also help compensate employees for the sacrifices and frustrations often associated with air travel. Similar to private-sector employees, federal employees must often travel on their personal time to meet work schedules.

This is just one small step to help counteract the effects of the expected retirements in the federal workforce in the coming years, and it would help the government compete for top-quality employees.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation.

HONORING THE CITY OF TRINIDAD

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to recognize the city of Trinidad, Colorado as the city celebrates its 125th anniversary.

Throughout Trinidad's town history, the city has been a melting pot for various cultures. In its defining years, Trinidad was a bustling city founded on coal mining and cattle ranching. Trinidad was also a stopping point for the railroad as it progressed westward. Today, it is a city of rich historical significance and livelihood located on the western slope of Colorado.

The 125th anniversary of Trinidad presents a wonderful opportunity for many residents to recall the valuable memories that have shaped this dynamic community. For others, it highlights historical notes that illuminate an era when Bat Masterson was the town marshal in the 1880's and when Trinidad was frequented by such famous western legends as Kit Carson, Wyatt Earp, Doc Holliday and Billy the Kid.

Mr. Speaker, I would especially like to commend the men and women who have impacted the city of Trinidad and made it the delightful place it is today. For example, Felipe Baca was an early businessman who built and resided in the notorious Baca Mansion. Sister Blandina was a pioneer for the Catholic nuns in the territory and Father Charles M. Pinfo was the first Jesuit pastor of Holy Trinity Catholic Church, erected in 1886. These are just a few of the many personalities that have molded not only the city of Trinidad, but also the western territory in general.

Mr. Speaker, as the members of this historic community reminisce of days gone by and anticipate those yet to come, I am proud to

honor and congratulate the residents of Trinidad on their anniversary. It is truly a remarkable accomplishment to celebrate 125 years of prosperity and good fortune.

RECOGNITION OF EXTRUDE HONE CORPORATION

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2001

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Wall Street Journal article printed on Friday, July 6th. The story discusses the importance of small manufacturers in our economy, and specifically talks about the success of Extrude Hone Corp. in Irwin, PA. This company is located in my district and produces a special abrasive putty to smooth metal products. Along with thousands of other successful small businesses in western Pennsylvania, Extrude Hone Corp. represents the hard work and entrepreneurial spirit that helps to sustain and drive the American economy.

[From the Wall Street Journal, July 6, 2001]

BY RESISTING LAYOFFS, SMALL

MANUFACTURERS HELP PROTECT ECONOMY

(By Clare Ansberry)

IRWIN, PA.—Extrude Hone Corp. is one of the reasons that the bottom hasn't fallen out of the U.S. economy.

Quietly, but profitably, the company is going about its business: making machines that use a special abrasive putty to smooth out rough edges on aircraft engines, fuel-injection systems, artificial knee joints and heart valves. By itself, Extrude Hone, which has a work force of less than 200 locally and 400 world-wide, hardly registers beyond its rural hometown near Pittsburgh and the large community of its customers. But its broader significance lies in the fact that it's far from alone.

Extrude Hone is just one of about 4,000 manufacturers in this southwest corner of Pennsylvania, nearly all with fewer than 500 workers. As a group, they employ about 170,000 people, and their payrolls total \$7.1 billion annually. Most are too small to show up on Wall Street's radar screen. But these stealth manufacturers, principally durable-goods makers, have an outsized impact on the nation's economy, and many of them are showing surprising strength.

LAYOFFS VS. HIRING

Though there have been some recent signs of a pickup, the durable-goods sector, which produces big-ticket items designed for repeated use, has borne the brunt of the manufacturing slump that began in the second half of 2000. Many of the sector's publicly traded giants, such as General Electric Co., Eaton Corp. and International Paper Co., have responded by announcing major layoffs.

But despite all that, about 60% of southwestern Pennsylvania's durable-goods manufacturers plan to add workers this quarter, according to a recent survey by staffing agency Manpower Inc.

Why? Larry Rhoades, Extrude Hone's chief executive, can cite several reasons. So can Kurt Lesker III, whose family-owned company makes vacuum systems, or Robert Moscardini of U.S. Tool & Die Inc., who has nearly tripled his work force to 110 people since 1994 and whose board wants him to increase it to as many as 500.

All three businesses have been understaffed in recent years and have had to invest heavily in recruiting and training. Mr.